



THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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Agricultural.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

THE FARMERS' CIRCLE.

The Club met at Trinity, May 1, 1886, at the usual hour.—President announced the subject, *Diversified Farming*, with Dr. Bird to lead.

For the Progressive Farmer.

DR. BIRD.—I feel the importance of this subject. Crops are of two kinds, cultivated and non-cultivated. Lands are diverse, and in selecting the kinds of crops this should be considered. Most of us have special or leading crops. Some are fanciers of the horse, some of the cow and others of the hog. Some make specialties of wheat or corn or tobacco. Upon the whole I think it right to have a leading crop; while at the same time I advocate diversity. I deem oats a valuable crop. They will grow wherever broom sedge will and are much more sightly. The corn crop must hold its place, and after it comes the preparation for wheat crop. They are very little in each other's way. Tobacco is profitable, if well cultivated and handled. Clover and the grasses are the sheet-anchors of the farmer. With them he holds his home; without them the chances are to lose it. We can grow timothy as fine as the Northern States. Very few in the South make hay a specialty. More might do it successfully where lands are adapted. Irish potatoes are good yielders, and cheap to raise, costing very little labor. Can be shipped North and made profitable. Always in demand in large cities. Fruits grow here as well as in any of the States. The North Carolina peach excels the Virginia in flavor. We have them a month ahead of the North and can reap the better prices. Chickens pay to raise, ducks are doubtful, and geese are a pronounced nuisance. We ought to raise our own hogs. He is at home in clover. The mast of any year is inferior to the clover field for the hog. He is a scavenger for the orchard. To make sheep pay house them in winter and feed on clover hay. No animal with us will excel the cow in making manure. The cow converts cheap feed into excellent manure. A poor cow don't pay. Bonanza farming is about played out. Small farms are best adapted to mixed husbandry. Diversified farming makes a country more attractive and beautiful, and induces the young men to go into the business. A. Parker—Will the Doctor tell us how it does? Dr. Bird—The land is in a tired or impoverished condition and responds liberally to manure and fertilizers; the contrast is so great, and the yield so much more, that it entices the young to engage in the business.

W. W. ANDREWS.—I am pleased with the Doctor's idea of beautifying our country and making it attractive to the young men. Mixed husbandry will do that thing. Specials make men of but one idea. The special crowds all other ideas. Never aim at being rich. Who cares if you make money. Make the farm nice and work steady. You will feel better in soul and body, look better and sleep better. Live short rather than carry mortgages. Better live on corn bread, mush or hominy than be eat up by mortgages. We are not the owners of the land, only life tenants. It belongs to posterity. We have no right to wear out and waste that which belongs to others. Diversify and beautify. Man must be as near like nature as possible; she diversifies.

A. PARKER.—Specials don't always pay. Our only chance is in diversity. Don't over-crop but diversify. Don't go wild on specials.

J. J. WHITE.—I think there is danger in going too far. Stop at a reasonable diversity. Diversify but

have a leading article. Make side issues of the balance. Don't let the others conflict with the leading product. My leaders are wheat, corn and clover. Can't find home market for potatoes. Peach crop don't pay; they are uncertain. When I have a full crop nearly everybody else has and the market is glutted. Sheep raising would pay if we had a dog-law. Get rid of the worthless curs then mutton and wool will pay.

J. R. MEANS.—I am like the little boy when sent out after chips. When asked why he came without them, said, "my brother's big foot covered them up." I can't see any chips. These gentlemen have said all my thoughts. Fight grass all summer and buy it all winter.

PROF. N. C. ENGLISH.—I endorse most I have heard. Diversity is the natural order. Tillers justify this course.

A. J. TOMLINSON.—I am pleased with all I have heard. I endorse Mr. Andrews' remarks. Induce the young men to become farmers. Raise good beef and in so doing you raise the price. There is money in hay and beef. On the farm you can make hay to raise beef cattle and not have to mortgage crop nor home for fertilizers, but instead will be manufacturing your own fertilizers, in a measure.

W. M. WILSON.—My experience is so limited I must be excused by saying, fine beef, nice hams and yellow butter attract purchasers, and cause higher prices to rule. This ought to stimulate the seller to aim high and reap the profits.

M. HAMMOND.—What does it cost to feed a horse per year? (Answered by W. O. Harris, \$100, and by Dr. Bird, \$75). I am teaming and don't know. Failures are often caused by not counting costs. I am trying to teach my boys to count costs as they go. They asked to try poultry this season. I made the enclosures to keep them in. They must furnish the feed and have the profits. We have more eggs since cooping than before. We have all we want for table use. The surplus more than pays all expenses. No loss in eggs by vermin or dogs. Nothing to do but go to the boxes and get the eggs. The enclosure is made in sections to drive in the ground. Can be easily moved to take in clover or anything else with very little trouble.

MR. CARPENTER.—I live in New Jersey. I am right from Florida. I didn't think that Dr. Bird had such a treat in store for me when he invited me to this meeting. I have visited many localities and seen specialties tried. The climate will determine the specialties. I have just come through Georgia. Cotton is their specialty. Had a fair crop the past season, but now are in the midst of a financial depression. They think if they make a certain amount of cotton to the acre it will enable them to buy their supplies. Those cotton specialists who do not raise supplies generally fail. Those who raise them generally are successful. The cotton sections have money but once a year, and then it don't stay with them long. Bankers reap the profits. They depend on the bankers to run them. The farmers are tied up. The money sharks hold their titles while they make cotton. The most successful farmers I ever saw are those near New York and Philadelphia. They diversify. Florida is a State for specials. Oranges, coconuts, bananas and pine apples are the specialties. Men go down there and see those fine orange groves and say they must have one. If they can't buy they will go to work to make one. It takes labor, fertilizer and time to make a grove. In six or seven years they begin to bear; but it takes twelve to fourteen years for a full crop. Groves generally sell for four or five times the cost of growing them. I like Georgia very much, and am well pleased with this State. These green wheat fields make me think of my native State, New Jersey. I have passed

through here before; every time increases my attachments.

PRES. PARKER.—I want us to help THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. We are thankful for the specimen copies sent us; and for inserting the proceedings of our meetings. We will have a Fair this fall and want Col. Polk to be preparing a big say for the occasion.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

BLACKMER'S FARMERS CLUB—ROWAN COUNTY.

This club was formed about two years ago, with a membership of twenty. It meets once a month, Mr. D. M. Barrier is President and T. J. Ray is Secretary.

PLEASANT RIDGE CLUB.

The Pleasant Ridge Club is flourishing and now has a membership of 28 which is increasing at every meeting. The following are the officers: President, A. D. Hulm; Vice-President, R. L. Yarborough; Secretary, F. N. Pfaff; Treasurer, R. B. Flynt. The executive committee is T. G. Thacker, I. H. Shouse and R. B. Flynt. At the meetings held the subject of purchasing fertilizers was discussed with good practical results.

SPANISH GROVE CLUB.

This club was organized in Vienna township, this county, last Saturday, with 14 enrolled members. The officers elected are A. E. Pfaff, President; V. J. Beck, Vice-President; E. C. Dove, Secretary; R. C. Lineback, Treasurer. The club meets again Saturday week.

MOUNT TABOR CLUB.

The following is the roll of members of Mount Tabor Farmer's Club, Old Town township, Forsyth county, organized April 26th, 1886: F. W. Pfaff, President; David Endsley, Vice-President; Thos. Ring, Secretary; Junius Miller, Treasurer; J. L. Pratt, Isaac Petree, J. T. Ziglar, A. E. Pfaff, G. W. Mitchell, Abram Petree, E. H. Thomas, P. G. Pfaff, Francis Fulk, J. W. Bullard, M. S. Barnacastle, J. N. Petree, E. T. Boose, G. G. Boose, A. R. Livengood, C. W. Church, E. T. Henning, W. B. Boger, E. A. Thomas, J. R. Petree and E. M. Conrad.

Correspondence.

THE GREAT CATTLE SHOW

Under the Auspices of Wake County Cattle Club, at Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 7, 1886.

ED. PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—Thursday morning, the 6th, dawned on the good old City of Oaks with clouds and a light shower, which made the day far more pleasant for the exhibit than it otherwise would have been. The stables, sheds and yards of Mr. W. C. McMackin had been kindly tendered the Club, and all was in readiness the evening before. Visitors began to arrive Wednesday night from adjoining towns and counties, while some were present from a greater distance. The trains, regular and special, brought in quite a number, while hundreds came from the country, so that there was no lack of visitors.

Early in the day, choice Jersey bulls, cows and calves, and a number of Devons from the "Orange Farm" of Mr. Wm. B. Grimes, were in their stalls and were soon followed by a portion of the magnificent herd of Jerseys from "Woodland," the beautiful farm of Mr. W. G. Upchurch. At the head of this Herd was the mammoth bull, "King Alpha," sleek, well kept and impressing every one with his grandeur and docility. Mr. T. B. Bridger's herd were soon in place, led by the beautiful young Rajah bull, "Prince of Wilson."

The select Herd of Capt. B. P. Williamson, from "Fairview Farm," containing the imported young cow, "American Miss," and the handsome

young bull "Roseira's Rajah," won compliments from every one who saw them.

The Herds of W. C. Stronach, Capt. Burwell, Dr. James McKee, Maj. R. S. Tucker and M. T. H. Murray were of special merit, and delighted every one. Maj. Crenshaw, of Forestville, added to the number his beautiful Jersey "Violet Alpha" and her heifer calf.

Dr. Lewis' "Cloverdale Dairy" was represented by the excellent Guernsey bull "Edgar," an immense three year old, with a few cows of the same breed (the other cows from this herd being too heavy with calf to move).

The remaining stalls were soon filled by contributions, from the private homes of our citizens, among them being pure bred Jerseys, some grades and a few very excellent native cows.

The butter prize awarded Mr. R. B. Raney was won by his grade Jersey, "Peggie," who yielded 14 lbs. butter in seven days, being fed on one gallon boiled peas, one gallon chops, half gallon cotton seed meal, forty pounds clover and ten pounds hay.

The Holstein cattle exhibited by Dr. Tupper, of Shaw University, with a yield of 7½ gallons milk daily, were well calculated to win the admiration of every one.

This display is one of the many evidences of the progress made among our people during the last five or six years, and ten years from now Wake will be far along in the list of the finest cattle raising counties in the entire South. B.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

A New Discovery at a Late Day.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—On looking over the catalogue of the State University for '85-'86 I have made the discovery that there is an "Agricultural" College hitched on to that institution.

Once on a time, long ago, when the land grant money had just been acquired there was an "Agricultural Department" at Chapel Hill. But this was beneath the dignity of the place and was soon put down. In the 1881-'82 catalogue, for example, there is a "Classical Course," a "Philosophical Course," a "Scientific Course," a "Teacher's Course," and Medical Class; but nothing that smacked of Agriculture or Mechanics. Mind you this was in the school which, up to that time, received its entire support from the Land-grant Act, entitled an "Act to establish Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in the States."

This year this belated department appears. A College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts is born to the University, mother a puling son, the long-expected heir, after 20 years of sterility. Let us all give thanks at the baptizing, that the child is born at last.

Let us see! Twenty years training all other classes of men except the classes for whom the whole College was originally designed. What sort of a beginning have they made this year? How many students of Agriculture and Mechanics have they this year? Examining the catalogue of under-graduates, we find that there is not a one credited even (and how easy it would have been for them to have credited a few to it) to the new-born college. To keep up the technical existence of the thing, one non-resident graduate is credited to the College of Agriculture.

Our politicians say we are a strictly "Agricultural people," and from the frequent repetition of this you would suppose that the farming interests had some attention in this State. But our University is a strictly non-agricultural University, although the organic law proclaims it to be. That part was put there to humbug us farmers into supporting it. "What fools we farmers be!"

State Items.

—The Carolina Central Railroad is constructing a large iron bridge at Shelby.

—The people of Johnston county propose to erect a monument to the memory of the Confederate dead who fell at Bentonville. I

—The acreage in tobacco will be some smaller in this section this year. —The flies have destroyed a number of tobacco plants on the beds in this vicinity. But owing to the reduced acreage, we learn there will be enough. —Battleground Headlight.

—Wheat and oat crops are not very promising in this section. Mr. W. M. Eudy, of Mt. Pleasant, brought us a number of wheat stools on Monday, and on examination found that the root was full of insect eggs. The result of this egg impregnation will be found out later. —Concord Register.

—Six car loads of steel rails were brought up Wednesday evening for the Mt. Airy branch of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad. —We learn that the steamer which has been in process of construction to navigate the Dan between Madison and Leaksville is about completed and ready for the engine. She is soon to ply the waters of the Dan. —Greensboro Patriot.

—The crop prospects were never better. —Mr. John Brown, of this place, says he had wheat last week that measured 4½ feet high. —The Willow Brook Manufacturing property at this place will be sold at auction on the premises Saturday, 5th day of June. —Capt. Snow is building one of his Modern Tobacco Barns near the sash and blind factory, so that persons interested in tobacco can see the barn by visiting High Point. —High Point Enterprise.

Farmers from different sections of the county give most unfavorable accounts of the prospects for the wheat crop. Not more than half a crop will be realized. The oat crop too is a failure even worse than it was last year. This is very discouraging to our people. The fruit crop promises to be abundant. This encourages, and our citizens are about as content and hopeful as usual. —Chatham Home.

A heavy hail storm passed over the northern portion of the county on last Friday evening. Slight damage was done to the fruit and grain in some places. —One of our best farmers from the western portion of the county showed us a few days ago a bunch of wheat which had been blighted by the ravages of some kind of an insect, and we were sorry to hear that it had attacked the wheat generally in that section, and is doing great damage. We have not heard of it in other sections. —Monroe Enquirer.

—An effort is being made to form a joint stock company for the purpose of establishing a school at Stokesburg in this county. —In three years from the 22d day of next December Stokes county will have completed the first century of its existence. That will be December 22d, 1889. —Nearly all the hogs in this section are dying; some farmers have lost the last hog they had. The disease is thought to be the effect of eating acorns. It is said that hogs always die after a heavy acorn mast. —The County Surveyor informs us that he was engaged nearly all last week in laying off new towns at Walnut Cove and Stokesburg. He says about three hundred lots were surveyed, and that it is proposed to call the new town North and South Walnut Cove. —Danbury Reporter.

—It is said that the low price of tobacco is materially reducing the acreage in Virginia this year.